

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 1851

To convey certain public lands in the State of Alaska to the University of Alaska, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 7, 1996

Mr. MURKOWSKI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To convey certain public lands in the State of Alaska to the University of Alaska, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

4       (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

5               (1) as the beneficiary under the provisions of  
6       the Acts of August 30, 1890, and March 4, 1907,  
7       designating the Alaska Agricultural College and  
8       School of Mines as beneficiary, and of March 4,  
9       1915 (38 Stat. 1214), transferring certain land for

1 its location and support, the University of Alaska is  
2 a land grant university;

3 (2) under the Acts of March 4, 1915 (38 Stat.  
4 1214), and January 21, 1929 (45 Stat. 1091), the  
5 Congress of the United States granted to the Terri-  
6 tory of Alaska certain Federal land to be held in  
7 trust for the benefit of the predecessor of the Uni-  
8 versity of Alaska;

9 (3) the Territory was unable to receive most of  
10 the land conveyed by the Act of March 4, 1915, be-  
11 fore repeal of that Act by section 6(k) of the Alaska  
12 Statehood Act (Public Law 85–508, 72 Stat. 339);

13 (4) most land grant colleges in the Western  
14 United States have obtained a larger land grant  
15 from the Federal Government than the University of  
16 Alaska has received; and

17 (5) an academically strong and financially se-  
18 cure State university system is a cornerstone to the  
19 long-term development of a stable population and to  
20 a healthy, diverse economy.

21 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this bill is to fulfill  
22 the original commitment of Congress to establish the Uni-  
23 versity of Alaska as a major land grant university, with  
24 holdings sufficient to establish, operate, and maintain a  
25 university system for the inhabitants of the State of Alas-

1 ka by the transfer of sufficient public lands to achieve  
2 those purposes.

3 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL GRANT.**

4 (a) Subject to valid existing rights and the conditions  
5 set forth in this legislation, the Secretary of the Interior  
6 shall convey to the University of Alaska, as a grant and  
7 in fee simple, a basic Federal entitlement of 350,000 acres  
8 of Federal lands in Alaska.

9 (b)(1) The University of Alaska may submit to the  
10 Secretary a list of properties the university has selected  
11 to receive under the conditions of this grant. The univer-  
12 sity may submit selections that exceed the basic entitle-  
13 ment, except that such selections shall not exceed 385,000  
14 acres.

15 (2) Within six months of the receipt of the univer-  
16 sity's selections, the Secretary shall notify the university  
17 of the Department's acceptance, or objection to each selec-  
18 tion, including reasons for any objection.

19 (c) The Secretary shall not approve or convey, under  
20 this grant—

21 (1) any Federal lands which, at the time of en-  
22 actment of this Act, are included in a Conservation  
23 System Unit as defined in the Alaska National In-  
24 terests Lands Conservation Act.

1           (2) any Federal lands validly selected but not  
2       conveyed to the State of Alaska or the corporations  
3       organized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Set-  
4       tlement Act.

5       (d) If, following the Secretary's review of the grant  
6       selections by the university, the amount of acreage ap-  
7       proved by the Secretary for conveyance is less than the  
8       amount of land authorized by this legislation, the Sec-  
9       retary and the university shall select the remainder of  
10      lands to satisfy the grant by mutual negotiation and  
11      agreement.

12      (e) Lands shall be conveyed to the university only to  
13      the extent that the State of Alaska conveys, or has con-  
14      veyed an equivalent amount of acreage to the university  
15      subsequent to June 7, 1996.

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